GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5296
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
PRODUCTION OF ONION
NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are facing the problem of excess production of onions in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to compensate such farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The production of onion in the country is estimated to be 54.84 lakh MT during 2001-02 as compared to 52.32 lakh MT (2000-01) and 48.99 lakh MT (1999-2000). In the state of Maharashtra production during 2001-02 is estimated to be 14.16 lakh MTwhich is slightly more than the average production of last five year i.e. 12.72 lakh MT.

(c): In order to safeguard the interest of farmers in getting remunerative prices, Government of India has increased allocation of onion for exports to the tune of 7 lakh MT this year, as compared to 5 lakh MT in the preceding year. Besides, financial assistance is also being made available by National Horticulture Board, National Bankfor Agriculture & Rural Development, National Cooperative Development Corporation, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. and NationaHorticulture Research Development Foundation for developing onion storage facilities inthe country including Maharashtra. Government of India also implements Market Intervention Scheme on the request of State Government in a situation when there is an increase of at least 10% in the production over the previous year`s normal production or if there is reduction in the market prices by at least 10% over the rates of previous normal season.